

Application No. 10/789,156
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

T H E C L A I M S

Independent claims 22 and 23 and corresponding independent method claims 40 and 41 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the recording unit forms an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area. See the disclosure in the specification at page 35, line 12 to page 38, line 21.

In addition, dependent claims 25 and 26 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 22 and 23 to refer to the respective single color.

Still further, new independent claims 43 and 44 have been added based on the subject matter of amended claims 22 and 23, respectively, and to recite the features of the present invention whereby a recording unit to form an image based on the input image; and a controller controls a recording unit (for forming an image based on the input image) to form an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area, when an area identification mode is selected. See the disclosure

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in the specification at, for example, page 40, line 13 to page 46, line 5.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 40 and 41, and the addition of claims 43 and 44 be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application previously contained 21 claims, of which 4 were independent, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such claims. The application now contains 23 claims, of which 6 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$500.00 for the addition of 2 extra independent claims and 2 extra claims in total is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

In the Advisory Action dated, May 4, 2005, claims 22-42 remained finally rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,199,081 ("Saito et al"). This rejection, however, as respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

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According to the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 22, 23, 40, 41, 43 and 44, an image is recorded (by a recording unit) for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the output signal for each said identified area (when an identification mode is set, as recited in new independent claims 43 and 44).

That is, the output image does not correspond to the input image data (when an identification mode is set), but rather is an identification chart in which, for example, a screened halftone area may be converted to a cyan area, a photographic area may be converted to a colorless area, a color character area may be converted to a magenta area, and a black character area may be converted to a black area. (see Figs. 9A, 9B, 10A and 10B.) Of course, some other single color produced as an RGB color mixture could also be used as the single color representing an identified area.

With the technique of the claimed present invention, the identification result chart may be checked in the manufacturing process, for example, to confirm that the area identification system is working properly, and identification processing may be standardized among manufactured machines.

By contrast, as pointed out in the Response to the Final Office Action filed on March 22, 2005, it is respectfully submitted that Saito et al merely discloses reproducing the

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signature and facial image on the application form 100 in the certificate 200. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that while Saito et al may disclose reproducing a color or monochrome photograph from area 201 of the application form 100 or a monochrome signature from area 202 of the application form 100, it is respectfully submitted that Saito et al clearly does not disclose reproducing photographic information from the area 201, signature information from area 202, and character information from area 203 as respective single colors in an output image, as recited in amended independent claims 22, 23, 40 and 41 and new independent claims 43 and 44.

And it is respectfully submitted that Saito et al also clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the problem of poor or inappropriate area identification which is solved by the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 22, 23, 40 and 41 and new independent claims 43 and 44, as well as each of claims 24-39 and 42 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Saito et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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